

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NATO 06453

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, MARR, US, NAC
SUBJECT: TINE STATEMENT TO NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL - FRENCH
PARTICIPATION IN RAPID REINFORCEMENT PLANNING

REF: USNATO 6432, DTG 051621Z JUL 77

1. PROVIDED BELOW IS INFORMAL MISSION TRANSLATION OF
FRENCH PERMREP TINE'S STATEMENT AT THE JUNE 29 NORTH
ATLANTIC COUNCIL ON FRENCH SELECTIVE PARTICIPATION IN
RAPID REINFORCEMENT PLANNING. THE NAC DISCUSSION IS
REPORTED IN REFTEL.

2. BEGIN TEXT OF TINE STATEMENT:

THE DOCUMENT SUBMITTED TO US, IF ONE COMPARES IT WITH PO/77/
18 FOR WHICH IT IS A SUBSTITUTE, HAS THE MERIT OF RECALLING
CLEARLY THAT IT IS THE COUNCIL WHICH HAS THE POWER OF
DECISION IN THE FIELD OF RAPID REINFORCEMENT AS IN ALL THE
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OTHER FIELDS. MY AUTHORITIES CAN ONLY COMMEND THIS.

IT REMAINS THAT THE CLOSE COLLABORATION FORESEEN BETWEEN
CIVIL PLANNING AND MILITARY PLANNING, INDEED THE SUBJECTION
OF THE FIRST TO THE SECOND REMARKABLY POINTED OUT IN THE
ADDENDUM TO AC/98-D/828 RELATING TO THE RAPID REINFORCEMENT
CONCEPT LEADS ME TO RECALL THE STATEMENT THE FRENCH MINISTER

OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MADE ON 11 MAY 1977 IN LONDON AND THE MAIN SENTENCE OF WHICH I QUOTE: "THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT CANNOT, AT THE RISK OF CREATING A SERIOUS AMBIGUITY, PARTICIPATE IN THE ELABORATION OF PLANS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF WHICH WOULD RISK ASSUMING A CERTAIN CHARACTER OF AUTOMACY BY REASON OF TOO CLOSE SUBORDINATION TO THE PLANS OF THE INTEGRATED MILITARY ORGANIZATION."

MY GOVERNMENT DOES NOT OPPOSE THE COUNCIL REQUESTING THE SENIOR CIVIL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE TO UNDERTAKE OR PURSUE THE STUDIES ON THE RAPID REINFORCEMENT OF THE ALLIED FORCES IN EUROPE. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS ALWAYS PREPARED TO PURSUE ITS COOPERATION IN ALL FIELDS OF CIVIL EMERGENCY PLANNING.

BUT IT CONSIDERS THAT THE STUDIES SPECIFICALLY FOR RAPID REINFORCEMENT SHOULD, IN A FIRST STAGE, BE UNDERTAKEN OR CONTINUED WITHOUT TAKING A FRENCH PARTICIPATION INTO ACCOUNT AND HENCE BY APPLYING TO A GEOGRAPHIC FRAME EXCLUDING THE FRENCH TERRITORY.

IN A LATER PHASE, COMPLEMENTARY STUDIES WHICH WOULD TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION, CASE BY CASE, THE POSSIBILITY OF FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN THE MEASURES CONCERNED COULD BE CARRIED OUT WITH THE COLLABORATION OF THE FRENCH REPRESENTATIVES ON THE COMMITTEES AND BOARDS SUBORDINATE TO THE SENIOR CIVIL CONFIDENTIAL

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EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE.

THE FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE WILL GIVE AT THE PRESENT PLENARY SESSION OF THE SENIOR COMMITTEE HIS FEELINGS ON THE PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS IT WOULD BE SUITABLE TO TAKE IN THE ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE DIFFERENT BRANCHES OF CIVIL EMERGENCY PLANNING, IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POSITION I HAVE JUST STATED.

TO CONCLUDE, WE AGREE TO THE ADOPTION BY THE COUNCIL OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S RECOMMENDATIONS IN HIS PO/77/83, BUT THIS MUST NOT BE INTERPRETED AS MEANING THAT WE ARE MAKING THEM OURS IPSO FACTO. OUR POSITION IN THE MATTER REMAINS PRAGMATIC. IT WILL RESULT FROM THE STUDIES CONDUCTED JOINTLY ON THE WAYS AND MEANS AND CONDITIONS OF OUR POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION IN THE ALLIED EFFORT IN THIS FIELD. END TEXT. BENNETT

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